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The situation in the Middle East

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Identical letters dated 13 July 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I would like to draw your attention to the suicide bombing that occurred at a shopping mall in the Israeli town of Netanya yesterday.

On Tuesday evening (local time) a member of the Islamic Jihad terrorist organization entered Netanya from the West Bank village of Atil carrying 7 to 10 kilograms of explosives. The terrorist detonated himself at the entrance to the Hasharon Mall in Netanya. Four women — two of whom were only 16 years old — were killed in this attack and 90 others were wounded.

This very serious act of terrorism comes during a period in which Israel has taken a number of steps to advance the peace process, including our impending disengagement from the Gaza Strip. Israel remains committed to advancing the peace process, but it will not and cannot tolerate an absence of genuine and uncompromising Palestinian efforts to fully eradicate the Palestinian terrorist campaign.

The responsibility to end Palestinian terror lies wholly with the Palestinian Authority. The Palestinian Authority must not limit itself to declarations condemning terrorism but must also immediately undertake visible, effective efforts to arrest Palestinian individuals and/or groups planning violent attacks on Israel, dismantle Palestinian terrorist organizations, and end the campaign of Palestinian terrorism. Until the terrorist infrastructure that has taken root within Palestinian society is dismantled no real progress towards peace can be expected.

Furthermore, there has been evidence that other States in the region have been supporting, training and financing Palestinian terrorist groups in an attempt to derail the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. The failure to hold these regimes accountable for this destructive behaviour jeopardizes innocent lives of civilians, the peace process and regional stability.

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Israel calls upon the international community to urge the Palestinian Authority to take all necessary steps to immediately dismantle terrorist organizations and prevent further attacks against Israel. Israel further calls upon the international community to reaffirm its absolute rejection of terrorism and to accept nothing less than a zero tolerance policy towards terrorism by all States.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 36 and 148, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dan **Gillerman**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative